

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EPA-04 ACDA-10 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

DOT-00 HEW-06 HUD-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-02 OIC-02 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 OES-06

SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 USIA-15 FEAE-00 /106 W

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P 041657Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0059

UNCLAS USNATO 6002

DEPT PLEASE PASS EPA HARRIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CCMS, NATO, SENV

SUBJECT: CCMS: ROUNDTABLE TOPIC FOR SPRING PLENARY IN DUSSELDORF

REF: (A) USNATO 5844, (B) STATE 269941

SUMMARY: AT AN INFORMAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 3 MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF, DELEGATION CCMS OFFICERS, AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UK (HALL) AND FRG (KUPFER) DISCUSSED THE TEXT OF THE IS MEMO ON THE ROUNDTABLE TOPIC (REF A). AFTER NOTING THE COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS FROM THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS, IS UNDERTOOK TO REDRAFT MEMO. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT A PAPER FOR SPRING CCMS PLENARY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION BE DRAFTED. END SUMMARY.

1. POINT WAS STRONGLY MADE THAT DUSSELDORF ROUNDTABLE SHOULD NOT DUPLICATE ECE DISCUSSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT AT FEBRUARY 21-25, 1977 MEETING OF ECE SENIOR ENVIRONMENT ADVISORS (REF B). TO AVOID PROBLEM, THE MEETING CONSIDERED IT BEST TO BROADEN TOPIC OF THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. THIS APPROACH WAS ADVOCATED BY THE FRG AND UK. THE US SUGGESTION TO RESTRICT DISCUSSION TO ONE AREA (E.G., AIR UNCLASSIFIED

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POLLUTION) WAS CONSIDERED, BUT THE PARTICIPANTS FEARED THAT A NARROWER FOCUS MIGHT LIMIT THE CONTRIBUTION SMALLER COUNTRIES COULD MAKE DURING THE ROUNDTABLE.

2. THE PARTICIPANTS IN NOVEMBER 3 MEETING AGREED THAT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING SHOULD BE STUDIED (REF B). RATHER THAN LIMITING DISCUSSION TO THIS TOPIC, HOWEVER, THE PARTICIPANTS PREFERRED TO INCLUDE IT AMONG OTHER ITEMS IN THE REDRAFTED GUIDELINES FOR THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW).

3. IS HAS PASSED US THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY TEXT OF THE REDRAFTED GUIDELINES.

BEGIN TEXT-

THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS
IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

THE SPRING 1976 CCMS ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON "THE ASSESSMENT OF POLLUTION HAZARDS AND THE DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS."

A FURTHER STEP IN THE DEBATE MIGHT BE TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, OR MORE PRECISELY THE MECHANISMS USED BY MEMBER NATIONS TO IDENTIFY AND MEASURE BEFOREHAND THE IMPACTS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS SO AS TO REDUCE UNDESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES. THE DISCUSSION MIGHT FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS: MOST ACTIVITIES IN INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETIES HAVE HAD IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ON THE WAYS HUMAN, FINANCIAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES ARE ALLOCATED. SUCH IMPACTS ARE DIFFICULT TO FORESEE WITHOUT CAREFUL AND COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS. AS THERE ARE OBVIOUS GAPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL FORECASTING, THERE IS A NEED FOR CAREFUL EVALUATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CONTROL INSTRUMENTS USED BY THE MEMBER NATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY SUCH AS PROCEDURAL STANDARDS⁷, 49\$7:589, 5-,\$-4\$, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS, LAND USE PLANNING. ...

IN ORDER TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT AN OVERALL
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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY THERE IS A NEED TO EXAMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CURRENT CONTROL INSTRUMENTS, THEIR IMPACTS AND INTERACTIONS, AND TO CONSIDER THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLS FOR PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES, IN THE WIDEST SENSE, FOR BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTIVITIES.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT CAN BE CONSIDERED AS A MECHANISM WHICH MAY PROVIDE DECISION-MAKING BODIES WITH ADDITIONAL MEANS TO ANALYSE THE EFFECTS OF NEW PROGRAMMES AND MAY OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY TO ORIENT SUCH PROGRAMMES IN A DIRECTION CONSISTENT WITH THE DESIRED GOALS FOR SOCIETY.

THE DISCUSSION, AMONG OTHER POINTS, MIGHT INDICATE IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENTS

SHOULD BE PREPARED, TO WHAT EXTENT SUCH PROCESS BE APPLIED, AND WHAT COULD BE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

THE DISCUSSION MIGHT ALSO INDICATE TO WHAT DEGREE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL INSTRUMENTS.END TEXT.

4. OBVIOUSLY, THE ABOVE GUIDELINES FOR THE ROUNDTABLE ARE BROAD ENOUGH FOR EACH ALLY TO FOCUS ON AN ASPECT OF PARTICULAR INTEREST. THIS WAS THE INTENTION AND EXPECTATION OF IS IN REDRAFTING THE MEMORANDUM.

5. IN ORDER TO TRANSLATE AND CIRCULATE THE PAPERS OF THE VARIOUS ALLIES, IS REQUESTS THAT THE BASIC ROUNDTABLE PAPER DRAFTED BY EACH ALLY BE SUBMITTED TO THEM NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 24, 1976. FOR THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT DUSSELDORF, IS'S AIM IS TO CIRCULATE THE PAPERS BEFORE-HAND, LIMIT PRESENTATIONS TO 5-7 MINUTES, AND ENCOURAGE A FREER EXCHANGE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT A US CONTRIBUTION TO THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE TOPIC "THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS" BE DRAFTED AND SUBMITTED TO NATO HEADQUARTERS BY DECEMBER 24, 1976.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NATO06002
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761199/baaaazkv.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: CCMS, NATO, SENV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006